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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-15 ADS-00 CIAF-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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O 171453Z JUN 80 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9514
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 11183
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC, IS, EG
SUBJECT: GLASS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS NEGOTIATION
FOR BLACK HEBREWS

1. AFTER 23 MONTHS, NUMEROUS EMBASSY QUERIES AND OTHER
OFFICIAL QUERIES, THE GLASS COMMISSION REPORT WAS RELEASED
ON JUNE 16. MK DAVID GLASS, WHO HEADED THE COMMISSION,
CALLED HIS PROPOSALS "THE LESSER EVIL." REPORTEDLY
MINISTER OF INTERIOR BURG HAS ENDORSED THE RECOMMENDATIONS
AND THE REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET ON JUNE 22.
2. EXCERPTS FROM JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE FOLLOWS BEGIN
EXCERPTS:

- "THOSE BLACK HEBREWS WHO HAVE BEEN IN ISRAEL FOR
OVER 27 MONTHS WILL BE GRANTED "ESTABLISHED TEMPORARY
RESIDENT" STATUS AND PERMITTED TO REMAIN HERE FOR TWO
YEARS. AFTER THAT, THEY MAY APPLY FOR ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP,
TO BE AWARDED FIVE YEARS LATER. THOSE RESIDING HERE FOR
LESS THAN 27 MONTHS WOULD BE GIVEN B2 VISAS AND LATER B1
VISAS THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO WORK IN ISRAEL. FIVE YEARS

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LATER, THEY COULD RECEIVE CITIZENSHIP.

- "THE RECOMMENDATIONS ASSERT, HOWEVER, THAT PERMANENT
STATUS COULD BE WITHHELD FROM BLACK HEBREWS WHO "ACT AGAINST
THE JEWISH PEOPLE," ARE A DANGER TO THE SECURITY OF THE
STATE, HAVE A CRIMINAL OR MENTAL HEALTH RECORD, ARE LIKELY
TO BE A BURDEN ON PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, ENDANGER PUBLIC
HEALTH, OR WHO ENTERED ISRAEL TO ESCAPE PAYING DEBTS.
EACH CASE WILL BE STUDIED INDIVIDUALLY.

- "A CONDITION FOR THE AGREEMENT IS THAT THE BLACK
HEBREWS ALREADY LIVING HERE COULD NOT BE JOINED BY ANY
MORE FROM ABROAD (20,000 MEMBERS OF THE CULT ARE LIVING
IN THE U.S.), EXCEPT FOR A FEW CASES OF REUNIFICATION OF
FAMILIES THAT WOULD BE LOOKED INTO INDIVIDUALLY. CARTER
HAS AGREED TO THIS IN PRINCIPLE.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY JL DATE 8/18/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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- "AN URBAN SETTLEMENT (LIKE THOSE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA) WOULD BE SET UP AT RAMAT HOVEV, NEAR THE MACHTESHIM PLANTS AND PROMIDE WORKS SOUTH OF BEERSHEBA, WHERE THE BLACK HEBREWS COULD FIND WORK. GLASS SAID THAT AN AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT -- AS REQUESTED BY THE CULT MEMBERS -- WAS NOT APPROVED, SINCE THERE ARE SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON LAND AND WATER IN THE AREA AND AN AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT FOR 1,500 PERSONS IN THE NEGEV WOULD BE FINANCIALLY IMPOSSIBLE. HE ADDED THAT THE CULT MEMBERS, WHO UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED THEIR HAND AT FARMING IN LIBERIA BEFORE COMING TO ISRAEL AS TOURISTS, PROBABLY WOULDN'T SUCCEED AT IT HERE....

- "ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, THE COMMUNAL SETTLEMENT WILL COST IS\$2,000-40,000 (SIC - FIGURE PROBABLY IS IS\$3-4 MILLION). BUT THE REPORT URGES THAT THIS FINANCIAL BURDEN NOT BE TOTALLY ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE ISRAELI

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TAXPAYER. INSTEAD, SUPPORTERS OF THE BLACK HEBREWS ABROAD SHOULD SHARE IN THE COST, AS WELL AS (PERHAPS) AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE IN THE LAST DECADE URGED FAIR TREATMENT OF THE CULT MEMBERS.

- "THE RECOMMENDATIONS MEAN THAT THE BLACK HEBREWS COULD LEAVE THEIR OVERCROWDED AND UNHYGIENIC HOUSING CONDITIONS (ABOUT 30 PERSONS TO A SMALL FLAT) AND RECEIVE IDENTITY CARDS. THEY WOULD PAY ALL TAXES, BUT ARE UNLIKELY TO BE DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY. THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE THE CUSTOMS OR OTHER PRIVILEGES OF JEWISH OLIM.

- "GLASS URGED THAT PERMANENT STATUS BE GRANTED IMMEDIATELY" AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT START THE COMMUNAL SETTLEMENT WITHOUT DELAY. THEY CAN EVEN BRING IN CARAVANS AS A BEGINNING...THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS SOME EXPERIENCE IN THIS, SAID GLASS, HINTING AT GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK.

END EXCERPTS

3. POLOFF AND CONSULAR OFFICER WILL VISIT BEN-AMI CARTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO GET HIS FIRST-HAND REACTION. ACCORDING TO KOL YISRAEL NEWS THIS MORNING, CARTER HAS EXPRESSED SOME SATISFACTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE REPORT. WE WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO VISIT THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT SITE. ASSUMING THE CABINET ACCEPTS THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE BLACK HEBREWS COOPERATE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION, THIS LONG-FESTERING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEM MAY BE ON ITS WAY TO RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES COULD DELAY THE PROCESS FOR SOME TIME.

4. A COPY OF THE REPORT WILL BE TRANSLATED AND POUCHED
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AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LEWIS

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